

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
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Confucius Say — British Rule Sea

IN the good old days of pictures and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. how we thrilled to see Fairbanks vaulting over walls, sword in hand, in fact a sword in each hand, leaping up and down stairs slashing right and left, or armed with a gun or machete cutting his way through a gang of bandits, highwaymen, or pirates. We thrilled and we laughed, the latter because the bravery of our hero, his ability to win out against terrific odds stretched the elasticity of our imagination until it reached that tiny spot in the brain which borders on the domain of humour.

To-day, a page of British history has been written which will be immortalized for it outdoes anything by way of adventure, heroics and daring that Fairbanks ever screened for a production.

Newspapers over the world, headlined "326 Britishers Rescued From Living Death". British seamen boarded a Nazi Hell-Ship and release close to four hundred British prisoners, after a chase in neutral Norwegian coastal waters, of the scuttled Graf Spee's tender and prison ship, the Altmark.

Here is moving picture material for a sea-story which could make any sea-picture successful. Some one will get the idea quickly no doubt, in order to capitalize on this thrilling event. Perhaps pictures have already been taken of what has occurred; and these pictures could be incorporated in some sea picture in the making. Perhaps, we may have the Korda touch, that is if the British Movie Studios can work as fast as the British Navy.

All that is necessary is to write the story just as it happened. The plane which sighted the ship. The race in the icy darkness off Oesund on the Norwegian Coast, the British Warship Cossack driving the Nazi ship into a rocky fjord, and in a hand to hand fight with the German crew setting free 326 British sailors, the latter who had been taken off torpedoed ships, prisoners who had been pounding on the hatchway to attract the attention of Norwegian officers inspecting the ship the day before at Bergen. Prisoners, bearded, ragged and hungry, prisoners who said that the conditions aboard the Nazi prison ship recalled the "days of the slave traders". Confucius say - "Oppressive Government is fiercer and more feared than a tiger". The captain of the Altmark was in the habit of telling the prisoners about torpedoed British ships, air-raids, towns bombed, the defeat of the British on land, sea and in the air. Germany victorious and the end of the war with Deutschland Uber Alles. Hitler's idea was to humiliate and humble these Britishers, to bring them as slaves to Germany to be marched through the streets in their unwashed, unkempt, ragged and bearded condition. To deride the Rule of Britannia on the sea as he bellowed, "God Strafe England" in the old revived German Hymn of Hate.

Now, he can tell the German people another bed-time story, of a British Officer who leaped across eight feet from British ship to Nazi ship, gun in hand, calling to his men, "follow me". The German crew fled before them, for the battle was short and bloody; and it bloody well did its glorious bit.

Here is a perfect sea-thriller with box-offices waiting to report. Confucius say - "He who hesitates is last".

—Editor.

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CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

RKO Radio Forges Ahead

With Big Story Purchases

J. J. NOLAN APPOINTED IN CHARGE OF STUDIO

New York, N.Y. — With George J. Schaefer at the helm, RKO Radio Pictures, out of bankruptcy after seven years, has forged ahead with plans, story purchases, talent additions, etc.

This week George Schaefer announced the appointment of J. J. Nolan as Vice-President in charge of RKO Studios. Mr. Nolan started in the film business some twenty years ago and since 1934 has been at the RKO Hollywood Studio.

3 FEATURE PROGRAM

Calgary, Alta. — Isis Theatre here went one of its competitors one better when "Gone With the Wind" came to town by advertising "Gone With the ARB-UP-KK" — a five and one-half hour program made up of "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Union Pacific" and "King Kong."

Newspaper ads, styled along lines of those for "GWTW", read "This program will positively not appear in Calgary again, until 1941 — except at these or other prices . . . No Advanced Prices . . . No Reserved Seats for all performances . . . Phone for feature times. If you arrive in the middle, you may forget the story before it comes around again. . . No pass-outs for lunch hour. . . No dinnerware with this program . . . Positively three days only — unless held over!"

Admission was 27 cents with a special bargain half-hour at noon.

"GWTW" IN REGINA

Regina, Sask. — "Gone With the Wind" will show at the Capitol Theatre here at a \$1 top. Prices will be 75 cents for matinees; tax included, anywhere in the house, and \$1 for evenings. Reserved seat tickets only will be sold for night performances. House holds 1,303.

ORLEY BLIGH KILLED IN SERVICE

Berwick, N. S. — Deep regret will be felt by the friends of W. O. Bligh of the Blighs' Theatre at Berwick, Nova Scotia, at the news of the death of Orley Bligh, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Bligh. Orley Bligh, twenty-four years of age, joined the Royal Air Force early last year and was killed in an accident "somewhere in England," according to a cable received by his parents.

Before becoming an officer in the R.A.F. Orley Bligh was well-known as an athlete as he played with the Berwick Bruins in 1937 when they captured the Nova Scotia senior hockey title. He played with Acadia University and last year was a member of the Halifax Wolves team who were winners of the Eastern Nova Scotia League and provincial runners up.

Another life given in the battle against intolerable aggression, and whose name is added to the list of those whom we honour and hold in "proud and grateful memory."

NAT TAYLOR SOUTH

Toronto, Ont. — Nat Taylor, Exhibitors' Booking Association, and Mrs. Taylor, have left on a trip to Hollywood, California.

GARRISON SEES FILM

Lethbridge, Alta. — Members of the Lethbridge military garrison paraded to the Roxy Theatre to see "France is Ready" as guests of the management.

EVANS IN MONTREAL

Montreal, Qu. — Maurice Evans and company will present the unexpurgated version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at His Majesty's Theatre, March 1st.

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS CLUB

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME TOWN

PROVINCE OCCUPATION

What year did you start in Show Business?

Where?

General Remarks:

No applicant is eligible for membership unless he or she is now associated with the Film Industry and started in the film business at least 25 years ago.

Fill in application form or send a letter answering the above questions.

Address: The Secretary, Ray Lewis, 259 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

RAY PRESENTS



Chinese by way of finding out whether the drawing or philosophy is really Confucian.

"Gone With The Wind" is in its fifth week at Loew's. No one knows when all the people in Toronto, who are talking about the picture, will see it so that it can move to make way for a number of big pictures scheduled for Loew's, but which cannot see a Loew playdate in sight. This by the way gives The Imperial, Tivoli, Uptown and Shea's some added picture "breaks."

The Pylon Theatre presented, "The Lion Has Wings," under the auspices of the Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women. The College St. zone is not what one might term a British picture zone, but with the cooperation and sponsorship of the VRCW, the Pylon attracted a patronage from other districts and made a good showing.

The news that Quebec women may at last win a provincial vote is of considerable interest. The attitude which would not give the women of this province the vote, despite the fact that the Dominion government permitted the vote for all women in Canada in the federal elections, may alter the attitude in respect to the attendance of children under sixteen to moving picture theatres. There has been some relaxation in respect to the movie restrictions for special pictures, but this province which permits children under sixteen to marry, still prevents them from attending motion picture theatres. Madame Casgrain, one of Quebec's leading suffragettes has at last won a battle for the franchise for women that was carried on yearly for over fifteen years.

The last war gave the women of Canada the vote; and now another war-period will give the women of Quebec a vote in their own province. We congratulate the women of Quebec.

TALKING about women and thinking about movie thrillers, we read in our dailies about a woman who slugged her pal because he dared to criticize her for shooting to death a man who had picked her and her mate up when they were hitch-hiking. The woman stripped the man of his clothes and shot him through the head as he pleaded on his knees for his life. The woman and her mate took the dead man's car, and fifteen dollars which they had robbed from him.

They proceeded to Stuttgart, Ark., to rob a bank. North of El Dorado, Ark., the women hit her mate over the head with the butt of her revolver, and threw him out of the car. Tonie Henry is alleged to be the amazon in this thriller, she is five feet six inches tall and is handsome, with a mixture of Indian and Italian blood. She told her story to the sheriff who arrested her, but

was "too bashful" we are told to tell her story to a coroner's jury. A modern shrinking violet!

And, here's another true story for a Raffles movie thriller. It happened in Toronto. A party was being held in a certain home. The guests had left wraps and purses in a back room upstairs. There is a garage between the house in which the party was being held and the house next door. The window is six feet above the garage with the garage off to one side, which would force anyone trying to get into the window to lean away over with the possibility of a good fall if he missed the jump.

The burglar successfully leaned over, hung on, and with a keyhole saw cut enough of the window sill away to enable him to insert a flat steel instrument to spring the lock. He then managed to get in the window like a flying trapeze performer, evidently with the greatest of ease. He got the money out of the purses and made his get-away, more hazardous than his entrance, by the same route. He had to drop two stories the police said, or swing his body from the window sill to the garage. It is good continuity.

MAE WEST won a million dollar suit which her one-time agent, Linder, had brought against her. Now Mae smilingly tells the world, "Come up and sue me sometime." She told the judge she was past thirty. Linder said he knew her forty years ago when she was just eighteen. She should be eligible for the Picture Pioneer Club. The story sure created some publicity for the W. C. Fields-Mae West picture!

Which reminds me that The Hon. Earl Lawson has sent in his honorable check and honorable application for membership in the Canadian Picture Pioneers Club. Do you know that Mr. Lawson in 1910 worked at the Grand Opera House and the Royal Alexandra, Toronto, under Charlie Gallagher as a property man and scene shifter? In 1911 he learned to operate a motion picture machine at Bruce's Crystal Palace Theatre, Dundas St. West, Toronto, and subsequently became the illustrated song singer at the same theatre. In 1913 Mr. Lawson leased the old Platorium Motion Picture Theatre on Danforth Ave., at the corner of Broadview and later the Peter Pan Theatre on Queen St. East, near Lee Ave. Mr. Lawson continued to operate both theatres until after he graduated in law in 1915. Some time later, in 1915 or 1916 to quote Mr. Lawson, "I sold out my theatre interests to the Allens at a profit — ha! ha!" I don't know who is getting the "ha! ha!", the sale, the Allens, or me, but notwithstanding Earl you're in the Canadian Picture Pioneers Club now. Application for membership from Leonard F. Hoffman, Toronto, Supply Salesman. Started in 1906, Far Rockaway, New York. 1906-1909, Operator, Opera House, Far Rockaway; 1909-1912, Operator, Mandolson Hall, New York; 1912-1914, Chief Operator, Thos. A. Edison

(Continued on Page 7)

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RAY LEWIS - - - Editor and Publisher

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VETERAN SHOWMAN HARRY MARRS PASSES

Moose Jaw, Sask. — Harry D. Marrs, prominent figure in Western Canadian theatrical circles for a quarter of a century and manager of the Orpheum Theatre here, died suddenly in his hotel room. He was 58 years old. Death was thought to have been due to a heart seizure.

Harry Marrs was manager of the Orpheum Theatre for the last 14 years and prior to that time had held the same position in the old Capitol Theatre. In his capacity as theatre manager he had been a Moose Jaw resident for the past 25 years.

Born in Hamilton, Ont., he managed early-day entertainment houses in that province and then travelled Canada many times as manager of various road shows.

He is survived by two sisters, Theresa and Catherine, both in Hamilton. Burial was in Hamilton.

The Orpheum was closed from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19.

SHOW "THE CITY"

Regina, Sask. — The Mayor, members of city council and prominent city officials were guests of the National Film Society on Feb. 18 to see Pare Lorentz' documentary film, "The City," dealing with housing problems in the United States.

"PICTURES UNLIMITED"

Montreal, Que. — The February edition of "Canadian Business" contains a three-page story on the Film Bureau's work, entitled, "Canada Pictures Unlimited". The article outlines the work which has been accomplished including the production of "The Royal Visit", "The Warning" and "Call To a Nation", and outlines future plans.

"VANITIES" GOOD

Toronto, Ont. — Earl Carroll's "Vanities" did approximately \$10,000 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Feb. 15-17. Guthrie McClintic's "Mambas Daughters" with Ethel Waters is booked this week.

Shooting The Stars

David Loew and Albert Lewin Productions purchased the screen rights to the new Clifford Odets play "Night Music". Picture is not to be released until the play completes its Broadway run . . . Frank Nugent, film critic of the New York Times, has been engaged as a writer for 20th Century-Fox Studios . . . Andy Hardy Meets A Deb" will be the next of the Hardy series. Production will follow Mickey Rooney's completion of work on "Strike Up The Band" with Judy Garland . . . "Free, Blonde and Twenty-One" is the new title for the second "Hotel For Women" pictures, in which Lynn Bari, Joan Davis, Helen Ericson and Joan Valerie will be featured . . . Warner Bros. has assigned Edward G. Robinson the title role in "Ben Franklin", following his success in "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet" . . . Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has set Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Claudette Colbert and Hedy Lamarr for their picture "Boom Town" to be produced by Sam Zimbalist and which will go into work within the next few weeks. This is the one picture Claudette Colbert will make outside the Paramount lot . . . Carole Landis has been assigned the feminine lead in "Turnabout", the Hal Roach comedy . . . Warner Bros. has changed the title of "We Shall Meet Again" to "Till

We Meet Again". The film will co-star Merle Oberon, George Brent and Pat O'Brien . . . M-G-M has signed May McAvoy to a term contract following her performance in "Two Girls On Broadway" . . . Ann Southern has been assigned the title role in "Dulcy", the Marc Connelly - George S. Kaufman comedy which made Lynn Fontaine famous, and which will be produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer . . . Shirley Temple's next picture for 20th Century-Fox will be "The Young People", to be produced by Harry Joe Brown. Story will deal with the rise of a child vaudevillian who retires at the age of ten . . . Jeffrey Lynn and Virginia Weidler have been assigned roles in "All This and Heaven Too" at the Warner Bros. Studio . . . "Tillie the Toiler" comic strip will become a screen story at the Columbia Studios as a companion to the "Blondie" series . . . Edward Small has purchased Ernest Vajda's "My Official Wife" for a Carole Lombard vehicle . . . Edward Small announces the acquisition of Jon Hall from Samuel Goldwyn for the leading role in the forthcoming Small production, "South of Pago Pago." Warner Bros. has signed William Lundigan to a new contract following his work in "The Fighting 69th".

NEW THEATRE SITE

Kitchener, Ont. — Toronto interests are seeking to acquire a site on King Street East with the intention of opening a new moving picture theatre here. The building, known as 'the old winter block' could be altered with little difficulty. It is the intention of the Toronto promoters to lease the property and to operate what they termed "a dime show."

HALIFAX SEES "GWTW"

Halifax, N. S. — The grand opening of "Gone With The Wind" bids fair to rival the success of this remarkable achievement of the Motion Picture Art, in other centres. The Capitol Theatre, Halifax reports a very large advance sale of tickets, the house being entirely sold for the first three days very soon after the tickets were placed on sale. The advance publicity of this picture stresses the fact that nothing has been taken from the length of the feature and that it will not be, for many months, given a second showing in any town or city. All critics are unanimous in praising this production, R. Roddick is manager of the Capitol Theatre.

LOUIS-GODOY FIGHT

Regina, Sask. — Joe Louis-Arturo Godoy fight pictures reached Western Canada while the fight arguments were still going strong. Fight took place in New York, Friday, Feb. 9.

On the following Tuesday the pictures opened at the Met Theatre in Regina and the Daylight Theatre in Saskatoon. Palace Theatre in Calgary, Alberta, had the pictures on Wednesday.

REGINA MAY CHANGE AMUSEMENT TAX SYSTEM

Regina, Sask. — Change in the system of dealing with amusement tax will be advocated to members of city council by Alderman E. L. Child. In a notice of motion filed with the city clerk, he asks that the by-law dealing with amusement tax be amended to provide for a system of collection of the tax through the sale of amusement tax tickets to vendors of amusement for resale to customers.

At the present time, at theatres, the ticket numbers are checked and the tax paid to the city on the number of taxable tickets sold. For other amusements, the number of paid admissions is checked by count of tickets or by estimate, and the amount of the tax paid. Under the proposal of Alderman Child, the city will sell tax tickets which will be resold to customers by those in charge of amusements. In this way the city will get its money in advance, however, the city will also be saddled with expenses for printing of the tickets.

FIRST PLANE TRIP

Moncton, N.B. — "Jack" Butler of the Imperial Theatre, Moncton N.B., has had his first trip by plane and was a passenger on the newly established passenger service between Moncton, Montreal and Toronto.

Photographs were taken of the plane with City officials and the passengers standing by ready to "entrain" or "enplane". Only mails have previously been taken in this service. Mr. Butler visited Montreal and Toronto.

FIRST in the Field --

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest
ESTABLISHED IN 1915

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Star Value In "Take This Woman" -- "Raffles" Well-Paced -- "Invisible Stripes" Prison Story

"I TAKE THIS WOMAN"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

FILMED originally over a year ago, and then shelved because it simply wouldn't "jell", "I Take This Woman" winds up as an "A" release, with a "B" story and "A" stars. Box-office prospects aren't too bad, however, thanks to the drawing power of two-times Academy Award winner Spencer Tracy, and the glamorous Hedy Lamarr. These two should attract considerable business, while the additional names of Veree Teasdale, Kent Taylor, Laraine Day and Mona Barrie should make for additional marquee strength.

Film opens on board a ship bound for New York from the Caribbean. "Georgi", beautiful society model, attempts suicide, because her boy-friend has returned to his wife. She is prevented from going overboard by "Dr. Decker", well-beloved doctor of a New York slum clinic, who is returning from a research expedition in Central America. Back in New York, "Georgi" seeks out her doctor-life-saver, who gives her a job as nurse at the clinic. He falls in love with her, and although he knows her to be carrying a torch for her married boy-friend, he proposes, and is accepted, much to his surprise. The marriage, however, is one of those in which on the wedding night, the groom politely says "good-night" to his bride, then pyjamas across his arm, walks into the adjoining room to sleep. But the doctor is determined to "win" his bride, and realizing that she belongs among beautiful clothes, jewels and other forms of luxury, he gives up his work at the clinic to become a fashionable Park Avenue doctor, and a partner in an ultra expensive hospital. A patient at the hospital dies, due to the incompetence of one of the internes, and "Dr. Decker", believing that his campaign to win "Georgi" has failed, resigns from the hospital, and prepares to leave for more research work in China. "Georgi", who has sent her former heart-throb packing, and who honestly and truly is "that way" about the Doc, enlists the aid of the Doc's friends at the clinic, to persuade him to return to them and to her.

Veree Teasdale has the best break in the film, with the rest, including Laraine Day, Kent Taylor, Dalies Frantz, Mona Barrie, Paul Cavanagh, Frances Drake, etc., doing all right.

W. S. Van Dyke 11 directed.

Running time — 95 minutes.

"RAFFLES"

UNITED ARTISTS

THIS is far from the first time that E. W. Harnung's "The Amateur Cracksman" has reached the screen. In fact, it is the second time that producer Samuel Goldwyn has transformed it into a motion picture under the current title. Original Goldwyn version has Ronald Colman and Kay Francis in the co-starring roles, while current version presents David Niven and Olivia de Havilland. Niven has made great strides during the past year, so far as box-office drawing power is concerned, and the younger members of the fair sex are beginning to swoon at the mention of his name, as they used to do for Robert Taylor and other handsome leading men. As for Olivia de Havilland, her brilliant performance in "Gone With The Wind", increased her popularity immeasurably, so that the team of Niven and de Havilland will look mighty swell on any marquee.

"Raffles" is still the darling of London society, a brilliant cricketer, and a thorn in the side of Scotland Yard for his ingenious jewel robberies. He is invited to spend a week-end at the country estate of "Lord and Lady Melrose". While there, he learns that his sweetheart's brother is about to be cashiered from the army due to a financial mess he has got himself into. He can be saved if the money is raised within a certain period. "Raffles" promises to save him, and plans to steal "Lady Melrose's" costly necklace. To his chagrin he discovers that the necklace has been "lifted" before he could get to it, and he has to steal it from the thief. But the police are hot on "Raffle's" trail, and while he is able to foil "Inspector Mackenzie" this one last time, the film closes morally sound, for it looks as if "Raffles" must pay the penalty for his crimes.

Niven makes a charming "Raffles", while Olivia de Havilland, with very little to do as his sweetheart, does it very well. Dudley Digges gives an excellent characterization as "Inspector Mackenzie", as does Dame May Whitty ("Night Must Fall") as "Lady Melrose". Others in the cast include E. E. Clive, Douglas Walton, Lionel Pape, Margaret Seddon, Gilbert Emery and Keith Hitchcock.

Sam Wood's direction is first rate, keeping an even pace throughout.

Running time — 70 minutes.

"INVISIBLE STRIPES"

WARNER BROTHERS

ONCE more the combination of Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing as the author, and Warner Brothers as the producers results in a prison story of exceptional merit. Story deals with the difficulty of a parolee to secure employment while still on parole. The title refers to the fact that although a convict may be released from prison, the stigma of the prison stripes remain, so far as the world at large is concerned.

"Cliff Taylor" is released from prison on parole, after having served time for a robbery. He returns to his home, thoroughly convinced that "crime does not pay", and determined to erase the past, and make a new start. His first bad break comes when his girl tells him she can have nothing to do with an ex-convict. His mother, and brother "Tim", help him to get over this blow, and he starts to work. He lasts only one day, and then is fired because his boss won't trust him alone with the cash register. Days of searching for work begin to make him bitter, but it is his brother who takes it harder than "Cliff" himself. "Tim" is madly in love with "Peggy", and both want immediate marriage, but are financially unable to carry it through. "Cliff" finally gets work in a department store, and receives a couple of promotions, before he is accused of a robbery in the store, and though proven innocent, loses his job. Defeated in an effort to make an honest living, he seeks out "Chuck Martin" a former cell-mate, and now a big-shot bank-robber. He joins the gang, and with his share of the loot, sets "Tim" up in business, and "Tim" and "Peggy" marry. "Cliff" then tries to go straight again, but when the gang get "Tim" involved with them, "Cliff" makes "Tim" reveal the identity of the gangsters, and then falls before the gangsters' guns.

George Raft does an excellent job of the role of "Cliff", while William Holden, who starred in "Golden Boy", is well cast as "Tim". Humphrey Bogart is his usual menacing self as "Chuck Martin", while Flora Robson, last seen in "Wuthering Heights" arouses the proper amount of sympathy as Raft's mother. Jane Bryan is excellent as "Peggy", while Paul Kelly registers as a gangster, and Henry O'Neill and Moroni Olsen play sympathetic roles as Parole Officer and Warden respectively.

Lloyd Bacon directed, with Warren Duff getting credit for the screenplay.

Running time — 80 minutes.

"Grapes of Wrath" Powerful Moving Picture

"GRAPES OF WRATH"

20th CENTURY-FOX

ONE of the most controversial best-sellers in recent years becomes one of the most controversial films ever produced. John Steinbeck's great work, "Grapes of Wrath" has been among the best sellers for many months, as well as being the focal point for many bitter arguments. Its critics, claimed the book was obscene, immoral, untrue, and too depressing. Its proponents claim it is frank, honest, daring, and an unbiased portrait of the migratory workers who sought and still seek work in the fruit orchards of California. And while the controversy has raged, the book has continued selling copies. Darryl F. Zanuck's courage in buying this book in face of tremendous opposition, is unquestioned. His greater courage is in producing the film as an almost literal transcription of the book, with just a few minor concessions made to the Hays organization and to the entertainment value of the picture.

Admittedly "Grapes of Wrath" is no comedy, or romance; it certainly won't lift you up out of any mental depression, but it will make you think, and whether or not that is something a motion picture should do, will not be argued pro or con in this column. Needless to say production value of the picture is A-1, with great care given to the casting, and to the costuming.

There are no glamour girls or matinee idols in either the book or the picture, and unless it is difficult to obtain old clothing in Hollywood, the bill for costuming of "Grapes of Wrath," should hit a new low for an ace Hollywood production.

Film opens, as does the book, with Tom Joad returning to his family on their Oklahoma farm, after serving a term in prison. Handbills have been distributed in the district promising lots of work and good wages, in California. The Joad farm, like countless others in that part of the country, is barren, and the family load all their movable belongings onto an old jalopy, and head south. En route, the grandfather passes away, and is buried at the side of the road. As the family approaches the California boundary the grandmother also passes on, but Ma Joad, fearful that the family will be held back, lets on that the old lady is seriously ill, and the state boundary officers allow them to proceed. The promises of work and high wages prove false, and the family hits rock bottom when Tom Joad kills a brutal sheriff's deputy who had killed a friend of Tom's. The picture ends a little ahead of the book, with Tom running away from the police, and the family finally finding profitable work.

Performances of the whole cast are exceptionally fine. Each character seems as if he or she just stepped out of the pages of the book. Henry

Fonda is perfect as Tom Joad, while Jane Darwell and Russell Simpson as Ma and Pa are both choice castings. Charley Grapewin as Grandpa and Zeffie Tilbury as Grandma, Eddie Quillan as Connie, John Carradine as Casy, O. Z. Whitehead as Al, Dorris Bowdon as Rosasharn, and all the others portray their roles in most convincing fashion. The cast is a long one, too extensive to list here, but let me say that down to the smallest bit player, not one person seems out of place, or untrue to the conception of the book.

John Ford, one of the screen's finest directors, has done an outstanding job in his direction of "Grapes of Wrath". It is comparable to his prize-winning direction of "Stagecoach" and "The Informer". He has made no attempt to dramatize his characters, but has presented them in the drab, pathetic manner in which their real life counterparts actually exist. It is his sticking to the truth that is one of the main features of the film.

To Nunnally Johnson, who authored the screenplay and acted as associated producer goes this reviewer's praise for a good job well done. The screenplay in this instance was of paramount importance, and Mr. Johnson leaves nothing to be desired.

Picture is not recommended for children.

Running time — 128 minutes.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Company; 1914-1915, Kinemacolor Co. Welcome, Mr. Hoffman!

An application for membership from Dave Muirhead, Beardmore, Ont., started in 1912, Brandon, Manitoba, "Sherman Theatre." Ran Road Shows three days per week, three-day run of pictures. Worked shows as Maude Adams in "Peter Pan" and Rose Stahl in "Maggie Pepper", etc. When operating used old Edison. Dave has also worked in projection rooms in Manitoba and in Saskatchewan, and now in Ontario, since leaving the army in 1917. Also operated for Y.M.C.A. when on light duty, while Overseas and in England.

Dave would like to go to war again but is over military age. Welcome to the Canadian Picture Pioneers Club. More news next week,

space up, time up, keep March 27th in mind for the grand rally and reunion of the Picture Pioneers and general election of officers for 1940-1941. Application for membership to the Chairman of the executive committee, Clair Hague at 277 Victoria St., or to your old pal, who like Mae West, is just past thirty, Ray Lewis, 259 Spadina Avenue.



The Hon. Leopold MacCauley Questions Necessity \$42,525 Item For Censorship And Theatre Inspection - Premier Hepburn Offers Him Pass To View Censored Film

BROADWAY HOLDS OVER OUTSTANDING FEATURES

New York, N.Y. — Exhibitors have a line-up of the highest quality production in the current releases in the 1939-40 program. Extended playing time for many films is reported. According to a survey by the Film Daily, only 71 features have played at six Broadway theatres from September 1st to date.

The present Broadway line-up is ample proof that good product can holdover and pay. The Astor continues to play to capacity business for the 10th week at \$2.20 top with "Gone With the Wind." The Capitol

with the same attraction doing big business in its 10th week also. The Disney opus, "Pinocchio" at the Center, doing nice business in its second week, and "Grapes of Wrath" in its 5th week at the Rivoli going strong. At the Roxy, Hal Roach's "Of Mice and Men" doing smash business. At the Strand, Warner Bros. "The Fighting 69th" in its 4th week showing a very good profit.

According to reports from Montreal, "Gone With the Wind" opened at Loew's to excellent business, doing about \$25,000 on the week.

AID WAR SERVICES

Toronto, Ont. — The Avenue and Pylon Theatres co-operated with the campaign for funds for the Canadian Legion War Services, week of Feb. 12th to 16th.

SAINT JOHN VISITORS

Saint John, N.B. — Recent visitors at Saint John have been Jack Butler of the Imperial Theatre at Moncton, and Colin Dansen of the Strand Theatre, Sussex.

REGINA VISITORS

Regina, Sask. — Recent Regina visitors were Vic Packow, United Artists salesman, Winnipeg; Russell Simpson, Paramount salesman, Winnipeg, and Gus Carlson, Craik, Sask., exhibitor, who was doing some booking.

BOOK "DUMBELLS"

Weyburn, Sask. — The "Dumbells", now playing Western Canada, played a two-day engagement at the Canadian Legion Hall here under Canadian Legion auspices.

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TORONTO MONTREAL

MRS. PARKER PASSES

Yarmouth, N.S. — Great sympathy is being expressed here for Lieutenant Harold Parker whose mother, Mrs. Mary A. Parker, passed away recently. She was the widow of Fenwick W. Parker, a famous national champion skater. Her son Harold, formerly manager of the Capitol Theatre at Yarmouth, is at present with the Canadian Forces Overseas, attached to a Nova Scotia Unit. Lieutenant Parker is well-known shot and has shot at Bisley on two occasions.

The funeral will take place at Saint John, N.B., where Mrs. Harold Parker is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bart Rogers, St. James Street.

Trans-Canada Showings

TORONTO

AVENUE

"Mr. Smith Goes To Washington" (Columbia), with James Stewart and Jean Arthur.

IMPERIAL

"His Girl Friday" (Columbia), with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

LOEW'S

4th week. "Gone With The Wind" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland.

SHEA'S

"Remember the Night" (Paramount), with Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray.

UPTOWN

"I Take This Woman" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Spencer Tracy and Hedy Lamarr.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Remember The Night" (Paramount), with Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray, also "Adventure in Diamonds" (Paramount), with George Brent.

LOEW'S

"Gone With The Wind" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland.

ORPHEUM

"Eternally Yours" (Wanger-U.A.), with David Niven and Loretta Young, also "A Chump At Oxford" (United Artists), with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

PALACE

"The Shop Around The Corner" (Metro Goldwyn Mayer), with Margaret Sullivan and James Stewart.

PRINCESS

"A Girl Must Live" (Empire-Universal), with Margaret Lockwood.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Balalaika" (Metro-Goldwyn Mayer), with Nelson Eddy and Ilona Massey.

MAYFAIR

"Another Thin Man" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with William Powell and Myrna Loy.

STRAND

"Stronger Than Desire" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Virginia Bruce and Walter Pidgeon, also "The Honeymoon's Over" (20th Century-Fox), with Stuart Erwin and Marjorie Weaver.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Gone With The Wind" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland.

GAIETY

"Nurse Edith Cavell" (RKO Radio), with Anna Neagle, Edna May Oliver and George Sanders.

GARRICK

2nd week. "Of Mice and Men" ((Roach-U-A), with Burgess Meredith and Betty Field.

LYCEUM

"On Dress Parade" (Warner Bros.), with the Dead End Kids and "Private Detective" (Warner Bros.), with Dick Foran and Jane Wyman.

METROPOLITAN

"Remember The Night" (Paramount), with Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Gone With The Wind" ((Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Olivia de Havilland and Leslie Howard.

PALACE

"That's Right, Your're Wrong" ('RKO Radio), with Kay Kyser and Adolphe Menjou.

STRAND

"Hollywood Cavalcade" (20th Century-Fox), with Alice Faye and Don Ameche also "Legion of Lost Flyers" (Universal), with Richard Arlen, Andy Devine and Anne Nagel.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"His Girl Friday" (Columbia), with Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell and Ralph Bellamy.

DOMINON

"The Great Victor Herbert" (Paramount), with Allan Jones and Mary Martin, also "Reno" (RKO Radio), with Richard Dix and Gail Patrick.

ORPHEUM

"Gone With The Wind" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Olivia de Havilland and Leslie Howard.

PLAZA

"Mutiny On The Bounty" ((Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Clark Gable and Charles Laughton, also "Danger Flight" (Monogram), John Trent and Marjorie Reynolds.

STRAND

"Invisible Stripes" (Warner Bros.), with George Raft, Jane Bryan and William Holden.